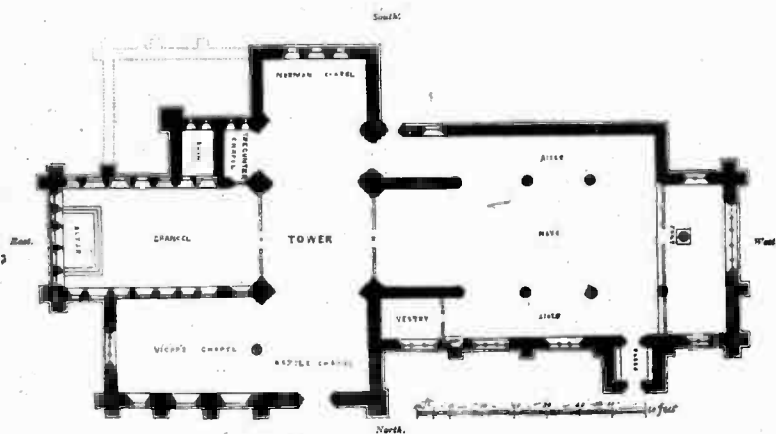


PRIORIAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, BRECON.



NORTH-EASTERN VIEW.



GROUND-PLAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER:

SIR,—Having a short time ago sent you for insertion in *THE BUILDER*, a sketch of a Saxon font, I beg now to forward you a perspective view and a ground-plan of the church in which it is placed, from my own sketch and actual measurement; and if you can find room in an early Number for them, and the interesting particulars I have gathered respecting the first erection of the church, you would greatly oblige, Sir, your most obedient servant,

J. L. T.

Berkeley-place, Brecon, December, 1843.

St. John the Evangelist's, formerly from its cross aisles and chapels called *Ecclesia Sanctæ Crucis*, and sometimes the Church of the Holy Rood, stands upon a hill above the river Howden. It is certainly most romantically situated on the verge of a thick wood intersected with delightful walks, below which the murmuring stream, bursting over many natural and artificial falls, hides itself in the thick and ample foliage, and here and there reveals itself again with increased force and beauty; and being surrounded by a chain of stupendous mountains, amongst which are prominently

seen the celebrated Brecknock Beacons, it forms upon the whole a picture on which the eye would dwell long with interest and admiration. The church formerly, like the precinct of the priory, was surrounded by a lofty and strong embattled wall, still remaining on the western side. Some suppose it was built, and others think it was only repaired, by Bernard Newmarch, the Norman conqueror of Brecknockshire, who entered the county in the year of our Lord 1092, and, by the superior discipline of his Norman soldiers, prevailed against the sturdy bravery of the Welsh, under their king, the courageous but unfortunate Bledin ap Meenarch, who opposing him,